

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 27, and 30-39 as indicated in the Listing of Claims.

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (presently amended) A method for detecting a composition comprising an activity for inhibiting inflammation, the method comprising:

a) adding to a first cell culture a composition comprising a component with an unknown effect on inflammation;

b) adding a stimulatory agent for inducing production of a determinant of inflammation to the first cell culture and to a second cell culture, wherein the adding of the stimulatory agent to the first cell culture precedes or occurs simultaneously with the adding of the composition to the first cell culture;

c) measuring an amount respectively from the first cell culture and the second cell culture of produced determinant of inflammation, the first and second cell cultures respectively comprising endothelial cells, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from NF- $\kappa$ B, IL-1, IL-11, TNF- $\alpha$ , ICAM-1, or PAI-1; and

d) comparing the amount of the determinant from the first cell culture to the amount of determinant from the second cell culture to determine whether the composition comprises the activity for inhibiting the inflammation.

2. (presently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from ~~NF- $\kappa$ B, a cytokine, fibrinogen, an adhesion molecule, CRP~~ IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$ , or PAI-1.

3. (presently amended) The method of Claim 1 2, wherein the ~~cytokine~~ determinant of inflammation is IL-1, ~~IL-6, IL-11, m-CSF, or TNF- $\alpha$ , or MCP-1.~~

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the component is a chemical element, a molecule, a compound, a mixture, an emulsion, a chemotherapeutic agent, a pharmacological agent, a hormone, an antibody, a growth factor, a cellular factor, a nucleic acid, a protein, a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleotide, a carbohydrate, or combinations, fragments, analogs or derivatives of such components.

5. (presently amended) The method of Claim 1 2, wherein the ~~adhesion~~  
~~molecule~~  
determinant of inflammation is TNF- $\alpha$  ~~a selectin or V-CAM-1~~.

6-9. (canceled)

10. (presently amended) A method for detecting a composition that affects induction of inflammation by a glycated protein, the method comprising:

a) adding the composition to a first cell culture, wherein the composition comprises a component with an unknown effect on induction of inflammation by the glycated protein;

b) adding the glycated protein for inducing production of a determinant of inflammation to the first cell culture and to a second cell culture;

c) measuring an amount respectively from the first cell culture and the second cell culture of produced determinant of inflammation, the first and second cell cultures respectively comprising endothelial cells, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from NF- $\kappa$ B, IL-1, IL-11, TNF- $\alpha$ , ICAM-1, or PAI-1; and

d) comparing the amount of the determinant of inflammation from the first cell culture with the amount of the determinant of inflammation from the second cell culture to determine whether the component has a stimulating effect, an inhibitory effect, or no effect on induction of inflammation by the glycated protein.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein b) adding the glycated protein to the first cell culture precedes a) adding the composition to a first cell culture.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein a) adding the composition to a first cell culture and b) adding the glycated protein to the first cell culture occur simultaneously.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the component is a chemical element, a molecule, a compound, a mixture, an emulsion, a chemotherapeutic agent, a pharmacological agent, a hormone, an antibody, a growth factor, a cellular factor, a nucleic acid, a protein, a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleotide, a carbohydrate, or combinations, fragments, analogs or derivatives of such components.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the glycated protein is G-HSA or AGE.

15-26. (canceled)

27. (presently amended) A method for detecting a composition that affects inflammation, the method comprising:

a) adding the composition to a first cell culture, wherein the composition comprises a component with an unknown effect on inflammation;

b) adding a glycated protein for inducing production of a determinant of inflammation to the first cell culture and a second cell culture;

c) measuring an amount respectively from the first cell culture and the second cell culture of produced determinant of inflammation, the first and second cell cultures respectively being endothelial cells, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from NF- $\kappa$ B, IL-1, IL-11, TNF- $\alpha$ , ICAM-1, or PAI-1; and

d) comparing the amount of the determinant from the first cell culture to the amount of determinant from the second cell culture to determine whether the composition has a stimulating effect, an inhibitory effect, or no effect on the inflammation.

28. (previously presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the component is a chemical element, a molecule, a compound, a mixture, an emulsion, a chemotherapeutic agent, a pharmacological agent, a hormone, an antibody, a growth factor, a cellular factor, a nucleic acid, a protein, a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleotide, a carbohydrate, or combinations, fragments, analogs or derivatives of such components.

29. (canceled)

30. (presently amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from ~~NF- $\kappa$ B, a cytokine, fibrinogen, an adhesion molecule, CRP~~ IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$ , or PAI-1.

31. (presently amended) The method ~~glycated protein~~ of Claim 27, wherein the glycated protein is G-HSA or AGE.

32. (presently amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein after adding the glycated protein ~~stimulatory agent~~, the cells are cultured for a predetermined amount of time.

33. (presently amended) The method of Claim 27 ~~30~~, wherein the ~~cytokine~~ determinant of inflammation is IL-1, ~~IL-6, IL-11, m-CSF, or~~ TNF- $\alpha$ , or MCP-1.

34. (presently amended) The method of Claim 27 ~~30~~, wherein the ~~adhesion molecule~~ determinant of inflammation is TNF- $\alpha$  ~~a selectin or V-CAM-1.~~

35. (presently amended) A method for detecting a composition comprising an activity for inhibiting inflammation, the method comprising:

a) adding to a first cell culture a composition comprising a component with an unknown effect on inflammation;

b) adding a glycated protein for inducing production of a determinant of inflammation to the first cell culture and to a second cell culture;

c) measuring an amount respectively from the first cell culture and the second cell culture of produced determinant of inflammation, the first and second cell cultures respectively comprising endothelial cells, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from NF- $\kappa$ B, IL-1, IL-11, TNF- $\alpha$ , ICAM-1, or PAI-1; and

d) comparing the amount of the determinant from the first cell culture to the amount of determinant from the second cell culture to determine whether the composition comprises the activity for inhibiting the inflammation.

36. (presently amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from ~~NF- $\kappa$ B, a cytokine, fibrinogen, an adhesion molecule, CRP~~ IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$ , or PAI-1.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the glycated protein is G-HSA or AGE.

38. (presently amended) A method for detecting a composition that affects an inflammation, the method comprising:

a) adding to a first cell culture a composition comprising a component with an unknown effect on inflammation;

b) adding a stimulatory agent for inducing production of a determinant of inflammation to the first cell culture and a second cell culture, wherein the adding of the stimulatory agent to the first cell culture precedes or occurs simultaneously with the adding of the composition to the first cell culture;

c) measuring an amount respectively from the first cell culture and the second cell culture of produced determinant of inflammation, the first and second cell cultures respectively being endothelial cells, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from NF- $\kappa$ B, IL-1, IL-11, TNF- $\alpha$ , ICAM-1, or PAI-1; and

d) comparing the amount of the determinant from the first cell culture to the amount of determinant from the second cell culture to determine whether the compound has a stimulating effect, an inhibitory effect, a stabilizing effect, or no effect on inflammation.

39. (presently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the determinant of inflammation is selected from ~~NF- $\kappa$ B, a cytokine, fibrinogen, an adhesion molecule, CRP~~ IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$ , or PAI-1.